## for immediate release





MARICOPA COUNTY Superintendent of Schools 301 W. Jefferson, 6th Floor Phoenix, AZ 85003 http://www.maricopa.gov/schools

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For more information, contact Wendy Hernandez at 602-506-3978.

## NEW GRANTS AWARDED

SMALL AND RURAL SCHOOLS CONSORTIUM

(*Phoenix*) – Maricopa County School Superintendent, Dr. Sandra E. Dowling, would like to announce that \$1,850,000 of new funding has been awarded to the Maricopa County <u>Small and Rural Schools Consortium.</u>

- \$850,000 has been awarded to both Aguila Elementary and Gila Bend Unified, to support 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning centers for students within their districts, and
- \$1,000,000 was the amount Rod Paige, U.S. Secretary of Education, recently informed the Small Schools Consortium they have been awarded with the Teaching American History grant which is a three-year project designed to improve teachers' knowledge, understanding and appreciation of American history through intensive, ongoing professional development.

Only eleven (11) 21<sup>st</sup> Century grants were awarded in the State of Arizona, and our consortium was able to acquire the entire requested amount of \$850,000. More impressive, is the fact that only 114 school districts were awarded the Teaching American History grant in 38 states, two of which were in Arizona. Out of the 114 districts that were awarded grants, our consortium received the entire amount requested, making it the most money awarded on a per student basis in the nation. The students within the Small and Rural Schools Consortium will benefit immensely from these programs.